

Application No. 09/670,884

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending.

Claims 1-23 are subject to a restriction-election requirement.

ELECTION/RESTRICTION

Applicants hereby elect with traverse, prosecution of Group I, claims 1-18, 22, and 23, drawn to a classifier wheel and withdrawal of Group II, claims 19-21 drawn to a process for separating particulates under the restriction requirement.

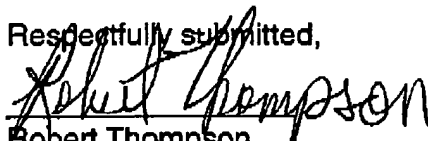
The restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 between the Group I, claims 1-18, 22, and 23, drawn to a classifier wheel and withdrawal of Group II, claims 19-21 drawn to a process for separating particulates is respectfully traversed, particularly since it is believed that these claims are sufficiently related to permit them to be retained in the same application, and an undue burden would not be placed on the Examiner to simultaneously examine and process these claims. Nevertheless, Applicants confirm the provisional election with traverse of the Group I claims drawn to a classifier wheel. Group II claims have been withdrawn from further consideration by the Applicants as being directed to a non-elected invention.

The application and claims are believed to be in a condition for allowance in their present form and which allowance is respectfully requested.

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In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is hereby authorized to call Applicant's Attorney, Robert Thompson, at Telephone Number (585) 423-2050, Rochester, New York.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE:

10. (Amended) A classifier wheel comprising:
an upper solid surface and a lower surface with a first circular opening
therein;

a plurality of blade vanes connecting the upper surface to the lower
surface at the peripheral edges of the upper and lower surfaces, and

an article [in accordance with **claim 1** fixed to the lower surface which
forms a second circular opening within the first circular opening and reduces the
diameter of the first circular opening] comprising:

a disk with a circular opening in the center of the disk; and
a fastener adapted to concentrically attach the disk to the particle outlet opening of
said classifier wheel and wherein said article is fixed to the lower surface which forms
a second circular opening within the first circular opening and reduces the diameter of
the first circular opening.

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16. (Amended) An apparatus for the classification of solid particulates entrained in a fluid, comprising:

a housing provided with a feed inlet, a fine fraction outlet, and a coarse fraction outlet; and

a classifier wheel [in accordance with **claim 10**] comprising an upper solid surface and a lower surface with a first circular opening therein;

a plurality of blade vanes connecting the upper surface to the lower surface at the peripheral edges of the upper and lower surfaces, and

an article comprising:

a disk with a circular opening in the center of the disk; and

a fastener adapted to concentrically attach the disk to the particle outlet opening of said classifier wheel and wherein said article is fixed to the lower surface which forms a second circular opening within the first circular opening and reduces the diameter of the first circular opening and an article comprising:

a disk with a circular opening in the center of the disk; and

a fastener adapted to concentrically attach the disk to the particle outlet opening of a classifier wheel.